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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,367	03/09/2001	Michael E. Last	LMTT-03	8322
826	7590	06/15/2004	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			MOONEYHAM, JANICE A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3629

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/802,367	LAST, MICHAEL E.
	Examiner Jan Mooneyham	Art Unit 3629 <span style="float: right;">M4</span>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in response to the communication filed on March 25, 2004, wherein:

Claims 1-30 are currently pending;

Claim 21 has been amended;

Claims 24-30 have been added.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on March 25, 2004 is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Response to Amendment***

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by [www.linkstime.com](http://www.linkstime.com) (hereinafter referred to as Linkstime).

Referring to Claim 1:

Linkstime discloses a system for posting available time slot information to a network hub from a plurality of network nodes, the time slot posting system comprising: a hub web server adapted to serve web pages and to accept time slot information (pages 1-28); and a web browser (Internet Explorer) at each of a plurality of network nodes, each web browser adapted to accept time slot information inputted by a network node

user, to receive web pages served by the hub web server, and to provide time slot information to the hub web server; wherein each network node is associated with a web address by which the respective web browser can access the hub web server (pages 1-28).

A server, a web browser, and web addresses are inherent to any system that runs over the Internet.

Referring to Claim 2:

Linkstime discloses a time slot posting system further comprising a time slot posting page associated with each of the respective network nodes and served by the hub web server, wherein each time slot posting page comprises a list of time slots available at the respective network node (pages 1-11 and 21-23).

Referring to Claim 3

Linkstime discloses a time slot posting system according to Claim 2 wherein each time slot posting page further comprises user selection means associated with each element in the list of time slots available at the respective network node, the user selection means adapted to enable the respective network node user to select from among the respective list of time slots available and to communicate selection data to the hub web server (page 11).

Referring to Claim 4:

Linkstime discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 3 wherein the user selection means comprises a web form check box (page 11).

Referring to Claim 5:

Linkstimes discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 3 wherein the user selection means comprises a web form radio button (page 11).

Referring to Claim 6:

Linkstime discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 1 wherein the hub web server further comprises a time slot template, wherein the hub web server is further adapted to enable a network node user associated with a network node to create the time slot template using the respective web browser (page 15).

Referring to Claims 7:

Linkstime discloses a system for posting available golf tee times from a golf course to a reservations hub so that prospective golfers may access an updated list of available tee times and make tee time reservations through the reservations hub, the tee time posting system comprising:

a tee time reservations hub comprising:

a web server adapted to serve at least one course input web page comprising tee time availability information to respective golf course web browsers (pages 1-19); and a database comprising tee time information associated with each of a plurality of golf courses (page 1-19); and

a plurality of golf course web browsers (page 3 refers to simultaneously inquiring about tee time availability at multiple golf courses) each adapted to browse the course input web page associated with the respective golf course and to provide tee time availability inputs to the tee time reservations hub through the golf course web browser (pages 1-19).

Browsers and servers are inherent in any internet system. Databases are inherent to any Internet system which users allows users to input and store information for later use.

Referring to Claim 8:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the web server is further adapted to serve golfer web pages containing multiple-course tee time information to a plurality of prospective golfers so that the golfers may select and reserve tee times from a list of tee times available at a plurality of golf courses (see page 3 – Whereas this page is to the demo which is connected to a sample only, this page states that the demo does not you simultaneously inquire about tee times availability at multiple golf courses like you can in the main reservation area – implying that there are multiple golf courses listed in the actual reservation area. Also, see page 4 and 5 ).

Referring to Claim 9:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein each of the course input web pages comprises:  
a list of future tee times at the respective golf course (page 18); and  
an input interface to enable a golf course user to select from the list of future tee times which of the future tee times are to be available to prospective golfers for reservation through the tee time reservations hub (page 18).

Referring to Claim 10:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 9 wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of web form check boxes associated with respective elements in the list of future tee times (see pages 13-14).

Referring to Claim 11:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 9 wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of web form radio buttons associated with respective elements in the list of future tee times (page 13)

Referring to Claim 12:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the course input web pages are secured so that access by the golf course web browsers to the course input web pages may be controlled (pages 6-8 (Sign me up) and (nor will you be able to inquire about tee time availability at multiple golf courses like you can in our main reservations are) and page 23).

Referring to Claim 13:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the course input web pages indicate which of the available tee times have previously been posted to the tee time reservations hub (page 21 – real time confirmed tee times).

Referring to Claim 14:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the web server further comprises a tee time template, and wherein the web server is further adapted to enable a golf course to create the tee time template using the respective golf course web browser (page 15).

Referring to Claim 15:

Linkstime discloses a method for posting available golf tee times by a golf course to a tee time reservations hub so that prospective golfers may access updated tee time availability information, the method comprising the steps of

at the tee time reservations hub receiving a web page request from a golf course web browser (pages 8-12 and 15-18);  
in response to the web page request, serving a tee time posting page comprising a list of future tee times at the respective golf course and a tee time input interface (pages 8-12); and  
receiving, from the tee time input interface via the golf course web browser, a posting input indicating which elements in the list of future tee times are to be available to the tee time reservations hub (pages 8-12 and 21).

Referring to Claim 16:

Linkstimes discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:  
serving a tee sheet template page comprising a tee time form and a template input interface (pages 3-18); and  
receiving, from the template input interface via the golf course web browser, a completed tee time form associated with the structure of a tee time management system used by the golf course (pages 9 and 10).

Referring to Claim 17:

Linkstime discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 further comprising the step of assigning a web page address to the golf course (pages 1-25)

Referring to Claim 18:.

Linkstime discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 - wherein the tee time posting page serving step comprises the step of determining which

elements in the list of future tee times have previously been posted to the reservations hub (page 21 – real-time confirmed tee times directly onto the electronic tee sheet at all of out golf courses).

Referring to Claim 19:

Linkstime discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 further comprising the step of, in response to the posting input, posting a list of available tee times on a tee time reservations web page so that prospective golfers may reserve tee times (page 21).

Referring to Claim 20:

The golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 wherein the tee time posting page serving step comprises the step of serving a list of next-day tee times at the respective golf course (page 3 (choose a date)).

Referring to Claim 21:

Linkstime discloses a system for displaying available golf tee times from a golf course to prospective golfers so that the prospective golfers may access an updated list of available tee times and make tee time reservations through a reservations hub, the tee time posting system comprising:

a tee time reservations hub comprising:

a web server adapted to serve at least one tee time web page comprising tee time availability information associated with each of a plurality of golf courses, said web server adapted to serve said web page without requiring a prospective golfer to first provide input identifying a particular golf course or a particular time of day (pages 1-25);

and

a database comprising tee time information associated with respective golf courses (pages 1-25); and  
a plurality of golfer web browsers each adapted to browse the tee time web page and to provide tee time reservation inputs to the tee time reservations hub through the golfer web browser (pages 1-25).

A browser and server are inherent in any Internet system. Databases are inherent to any Internet system which allows users to input and store information for later use.

Referring to Claim 22:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to claim 21 wherein the web server is further adapted to serve tee time web pages containing multiple-course tee time information so that the prospective golfers may select and reserve tee times from a list of tee times available at a plurality of golf courses (page 3 and pages 21-23).

Referring to Claims 23:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to claim 22 wherein the web server is further adapted to serve tee time web pages containing a subset of tee times available from multiple courses so that the prospective golfers may select and reserve tee times from a subset of the list of available tee times (page 1-28).

Referring to Claim 24:

Linkstime discloses the tee time posting system according to claim 21, wherein said web server is further adapted to serve said web page without requiring a prospective golfer to first provide input identifying a particular area of town or a particular price range (pages 1-28).

Referring to Claim 25:

A method comprising:

serving a web page used to generate a display of tee times for at least one golf course on a web browser, the tee times in the display being a subset of the tee times available at the at least one golf course (pages 1-28).

Referring to Claim 26:

Linkstime discloses a method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein respective subsets of available tee times are displayed for respective ones of a plurality of golf courses (pages 1-28).

Referring to Claim 27:

Linkstime discloses a system for displaying available golf tee times associated with a plurality of golf courses, comprising:

a tee time reservations hub comprising:

a web server adapted to serve, to a plurality of golfer web browsers, at least one tee time web page comprising tee time availability information associated with each of a plurality of golf courses, each said golfer web browser being adapted to browse said at least one tee time web page and to provide tee time reservation information inputs to the tee time reservations hub through the golfer web browser (pages 1-28); and

a database comprising a list of available tee times associated with each of said plurality of golf courses (pages 1-28)

said web server adapted to display on a single web page a subset of available tee times for each of a plurality of golf courses, so that prospective golfers viewing said single web

page can select and reserve any of the tee times associated with each of said golf courses displayed on said single web page (pages 1-28).

A web server and browsers are inherent in any Internet system. Databases are inherent to any Internet system which allows users to input and store information for later use.

Referring to Claim 28:

Linkstime discloses the system according to Claim 27, wherein the web server is further adapted to serve at least one golf-course input web page comprising tee time availability information to respective golf-course web browsers (pages 1-28).

Referring to Claim 29:

Linkstime discloses a method of displaying available golf tee times associated with a plurality of golf courses, the method comprising:  
receiving at a hub web server a particular date for which available golf tee times are to be displayed (pages 1-28);  
querying a database comprising a list of available tee times associated with each of a plurality of golf courses (pages 1-28); and  
displaying on a single web page a subset of available tee times for each of a plurality of golf courses, so that prospective golfers viewing said single web page can select and reserve any of the tee times associated with each of the plurality of golf courses displayed on said single web page (pages 1-28).

Referring to Claim 30:

Linkstime discloses the method according to Claim 29, further comprising:

serving at least one golf-course input web page comprising tee time availability information to respective golf-course web browsers (pages 1-28); receiving at said hub web server tee time availability information from said respective golf-course web browsers (pages 1-28); and storing said tee time availability information in said database (pages 1-28).

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

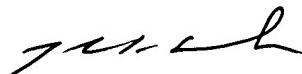
Margolis, Philip E., Computer & Internet Dictionary Third Edition – discloses definitions of browser, web server, and nodes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jan Mooneyham whose telephone number is (703) 305-8554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM

  
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